

Large Truck Crash Causation Study

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,
U. S. Department of Transportation

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Goal: To determine causes of serious large truck crashes so FMCSA can implement optimally effective countermeasures to reduce the occurrence and severity of these crashes.

Background: No national database exists that contains information describing the causes or contributing factors for large truck crashes. The FMCSA has recognized the importance of having this information and began investigating methods to collect it several years ago. The General Accounting Office and the Department of Transportation's Inspector General recommended in separate reports in 1999 that the lack of large truck crash causation data hampers FMCSA program effectiveness.

Summary: The FMCSA, in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), has initiated the first-ever national study of the causes of crashes involving large trucks that result in a fatality or serious injury. Nationally representative data on the primary and secondary causes of serious large truck crashes will be collected by teams of trained investigators from NHTSA's National Automotive Sampling System and FMCSA-funded truck inspectors. FMCSA has also contracted with other nationally-recognized truck crash experts to assist with the project.

Data Sites: Truck crash data will be collected at the following sites:

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|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Ulster County, NY | 13. Knox County, TN |
| 2. Kings County, NY | 14. Bibb & Tuscaloosa Counties, AL |
| 3. Ocean County, NJ | 15. Dallas, TX |
| 4. Montgomery County, PA | 16. Chicago, IL* |
| 5. Philadelphia, PA* | 17. Lake County, IN |
| 6. Allegheny Co., PA (Except Pittsburgh) | 18. Douglas County, NE |
| 7. Charles & Prince Georges Cos., MD* | 19. Gilpin & Jefferson Counties, CO |
| 8. Washtenaw County, MI | 20. Gila, Graham, Greenlee Counties, AZ |
| 9. Genesee County, MI | 21. Yuma & La Paz Counties, AZ* |
| 10. Muskegon County, MI | 22. Los Angeles, CA |
| 11. Ft. Lauderdale & Hollywood, FL | 23. King County, WA (Except Seattle) |
| 12. Wake County, NC | 24. Seattle, WA |

Note: * B Pilot Sites

Milestones:

- 1998** - Entered into agreement with NHTSA to conduct a feasibility study.
- 1999** - Completed feasibility study and selected pilot sites. Continued agreement to develop a study work plan and develop data collection forms and coding manual.
- 2000** - Developed coding and database software, and began collection in pilot sites. Transportation Research Board began review of study.
- 2001** - Refine coding and database software, initiate data collection at all sites, begin data entry and data analysis.
- 2002** - Continue data collection, data entry and data analysis.
- 2003** - Complete data collection, and draft report on preliminary results.
- 2004** - Produce final report.

Study Team: The project managers are Mr. Ralph Craft of FMCSA and Mr. Gary Toth of NHTSA.

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